

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-10 and add claim 11 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising: Method for the management of subscriber functions, said method being used to manage subscriber functions in a telecommunication network (1), said subscriber functions being stored in records (2), the method comprising the steps of:

- defining one or more default function sets, each default function set comprising one or more subscriber functions of a digital telephone exchange defined as default functions;
- partitioning subscribers of said digital telephone exchange into default subscribers and special subscribers, said default subscribers being those subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to one of said default function sets, and said special subscribers being those subscribers whose subscriber functions do not correspond to any of said default function sets;
- storing subscriber functions consistent with said default function sets in default data records ($2^{00}, 2^{01}, \dots, 2^{0N}$) of a subscriber database, each single default data record being common to a plurality of default subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to the subscriber functions in the default data record concerned;
- storing subscriber functions for each special subscriber in subscriber-specific data records ($2^1, 2^2, \dots, 2^N$) of a subscriber database, each subscriber-specific data record being specific to the special subscriber concerned;
- reading the subscriber functions for each default subscriber of said plurality of default subscribers from the default data record ($2^{00}, 2^{01}, \dots, 2^{0N}$) concerned; and

- reading the subscriber functions for each special subscriber from the subscriber-specific data record ($2^1, 2^2, \dots, 2^N$) for the subscriber concerned; and

managing subscriber functions in the telecommunication network by using subscriber functions read from the default data record and from the subscriber-specific data record.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing Method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that data indicating whether the subscriber is a default subscriber or a special subscriber ~~is provided~~ in conjunction with the telephone number of the subscriber.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing performing a check, Method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that

- when changes are made in the subscriber functions for a special subscriber, ~~a check is performed to establish whether the changed functions correspond to any one of the default function sets; and~~

- redefining, if the changed functions correspond to one of the default function sets, then the special subscriber concerned is redefined as a default subscriber.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein Method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the subscriber functions for a special subscriber are not stored in a subscriber specific data record ($2^1, 2^2, \dots, 2^N$) until one of said functions is activated for use.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein Method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the default definitions are subscriber type-specific.

6. (Currently Amended) A system comprising: System for the management of subscriber functions, said system comprising a telecommunication network (1), the subscriber functions for subscribers in said telecommunication network being managed, and said system further comprising a number of records (2), in which said subscriber functions are stored, characterized in that

- the system comprises one or more default data records ($2^{00}, 2^{01}, \dots, 2^{0N}$), in which subscriber functions consistent with default function sets are stored and from which the subscriber functions for default subscribers are read, each single default data record being common to a plurality of default subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to the subscriber functions in the default data record concerned;

- the system comprises one or more subscriber-specific data records ($2^1, 2^2, \dots, 2^N$), in which the subscriber functions for each special subscriber are stored and from which they are read; and

a managing unit configured to manage subscriber functions of subscribers in a telecommunications network with the one or more subscriber-specific data records and the one or more default data records.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, comprising a unit configured to provide System as defined in claim 6 characterized in that the system comprises means (1) by

~~which~~ data indicating whether the subscriber is a default subscriber or a special subscriber is provided in conjunction with the telephone number of the subscriber.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, comprising a checking unit configured to check System as defined in claim 6, characterized in that system comprises means (1) by which, when the subscriber functions for a special subscriber are changed, a check is performed to establish whether the changed functions correspond to any one of the default function sets and by which a special subscriber is redefined as a default subscriber if the changed functions correspond to one of the default function sets.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein System as defined in claim 6, characterized in that in that the subscriber functions for a special subscriber are not stored in a subscriber specific data record ($2^1, 2^2, \dots, 2^N$) until one of the functions in question is activated for use.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, comprising a checking unit configured to check System as defined in claim 6, characterized in that the default definitions are subscriber type-specific.

11. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

defining means for defining one or more default function sets, each default function set comprising one or more subscriber functions of a digital telephone exchange defined as default functions;

partitioning means for partitioning subscribers of said digital telephone exchange into default subscribers and special subscribers, said default subscribers being those subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to one of said default function sets, and said special subscribers being those subscribers whose subscriber functions do not correspond to any of said default function sets;

storing means for storing subscriber functions consistent with said default function sets in default data records of a subscriber database, each single default data record being common to a plurality of default subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to the subscriber functions in the default data record concerned;

storing means for storing subscriber functions for each special subscriber in subscriber-specific data records of a subscriber database, each subscriber-specific data record being specific to the special subscriber concerned;

reading means for reading the subscriber functions for each default subscriber of said plurality of default subscribers from the default data record concerned;

reading means for reading the subscriber functions for each special subscriber from the subscriber-specific data record for the subscriber concerned; and

managing means for managing subscriber functions in the telecommunication network by using subscriber functions read from the default data record and from the subscriber-specific data record.